

econnections



August 2005

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

MEETINGS/TRAINING

Wednesday, August 3

Directional Team, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Boardroom

Thursday, August 4

Resident Engineers Meeting,
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Room 255

Wednesday, August 10

Pavement/Bridge Team, 8 a.m., Boardroom

Friday, August 12

Missouri Highways & Transportation
Commission, Jefferson City

Tuesday, August 16

Pavement/Bridge Team, 8 a.m., Boardroom

Wednesday, August 17

Munck Area Team, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
Nashua Project Office

Thursday, August 18

Maintenance Superintendents Meeting,
9 a.m.-11 a.m., Room 136

Thursday, August 18

Management Team, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Boardroom

Monday, August 22

Lamson Area Team, Site and time TBD

Tuesday, August 23

Stock Area Team, 8 a.m.-10 a.m.,
87th Street facility

Thursday, August 24

Pavement/Bridge Team, 8 a.m., Boardroom

Thursday, August 24

Job Status, Group 4, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 2, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 3, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Job Status, Group 1, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

EVENTS

August 12-14

Camp and Float Trip along Elk River; group
departs D4 office at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12

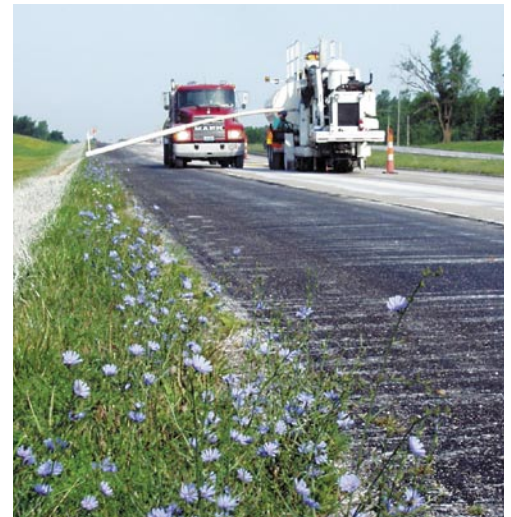
Smoother Trips a Reality in Johnson County

The first Smooth Roads Initiative project in District 4 wrapped up in late July, providing travelers on Route 50 a much nicer trip from Route HH in Warrensburg to the Johnson/Jackson County line.

The Route 50 project milled old pavement and replaced it with 1¾ inches of asphalt; the project included fog-sealing shoulders, sign replacement, mile-marker changes, rumble strips on some shoulders and new, wider 6-inch epoxy striping.

Crews also resurfaced Business Route 13 from Business Route 50 to Cooper Street, and the eastbound and westbound ramps at the Routes 13 and 50 interchange in Warrensburg. Hilty Quarries and subcontractor Chester Bross Co. performed the work.

continued on Page 3



A diamond grinder pumps lime slurry to the shoulder and over a row of chicory on eastbound Route 7 in Cass County.



Chester Bross workers discuss the lift thickness with a MoDOT inspector beside a paver on southbound Route 71.

Signal Alert Signs Added at Watkins Drive Intersections

Bruce R. Watkins Drive, which connects downtown Kansas City with the Triangle interchange and the southern portion of the metropolitan region, has attracted high volumes of traffic since it opened in October 2001.

Collisions at three signalized intersections along the facility have raised safety concerns, and District 4's traffic division has responded with additional traffic safety measures that will alert drivers approaching the three signalized intersections.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission July 8 approved a \$159,765.25 contract to place electronically controlled signs on Route 71 (Watkins Drive) near the at-grade intersections of Gregory Boulevard and 55th Street to alert drivers who approach those crossroads controlled by traffic signals. Custom Lighting Services, LLC of Kansas City is the contractor.

The 36-inch-by-36-inch signs, located several hundred feet before the intersections, will say "RED Signal Ahead;" the "RED" will be illuminated in red prior to the signal light change to tell motorists they will not make it through the intersection on a green light as they approach it.

"If the sign goes red before you pass it, the signal you are approaching will be red before you arrive at that intersection," said Randy Johnson, traffic operations engineer.

The coordinated sign/signal combination includes signs flanking each side of Route 71 at all six approaches: Northbound at Gregory, 59th and 55th; and southbound at 55th, 59th and Gregory. The system also includes a changeable electronic message board on northbound Route 71 at 77th Street alerting motorists to signals ahead. A camera traffic detector can also send an alternative message alerting motorists to be prepared to stop if traffic begins to back up.

MoDOT traffic and maintenance crews also will place eight other signs using additional MoDOT funds. The system is scheduled to be installed this fall.

News from Across the District

Bashing Trash: MoDOT's no More Trash Bash in April collected 60,294 bags of refuse through the efforts of incarcerated crews, MoDOT workers, Adopt-A-Highway participants and other volunteers. District 4 contributed 6,994 bags to the effort, and received a nod from statewide event organizers for its Survivor-style Mountain of Trash event at Clinton.



Condolences: Our prayers are with Wayne Ewing, intermediate crew worker at Lexington; Clinton-area retiree Greg Brown; Brad Wise of Right of Way; the family of retiree Herb Gulley; and Facility Manager Marvin Wallace. Wayne's mother passed away July 6. Mr. Brown's father died in mid-July. Brad's father-in-law passed away July 14. Mr. Gulley, who worked at the district garage service station before he retired, died on July 16. Marvin's mother passed away July 26.

Now We're Cooking: The D4 Employees Fund Committee cleared more than \$150 from a July 20 cookout at District 4 offices.



Congratulations: Crystal Rose, daughter of Kevin Rose of Special Maintenance Operations in Oak Grove, was crowned the 2005 Sweet Springs Gusher Days Festival Queen in July. She was a runner-up in last year's competition.



Mailbag: North Kansas City officials passed along the following e-mail to MoDOT Area Engineer Kirsten Munck:

Mayor Bruns:

My wife and I are privileged to work with several non-profit groups in the movement of materials, food, furniture etc. This effort requires us to cross the river at various times of the day and probably 20 or more times per week. As a result, I believe we are in a position to fairly evaluate the traffic management efforts taken to deal with the closure of the Paseo Bridge.

On a scale of one to ten, I would personally rate the results at a high ten. Confusion, delays, and road rage are almost non-existent. Just out of curiosity, we have, on several occasions, measured our "delay or rerouting time" and have never found it to be more than about 6 minutes. Considering the fact that in excess of 75,000 vehicles had to be rerouted daily, one would predict such a success statistically impossible. But you and your associates did it!

Great job. Please pass on our commendations and great appreciation for such a job well done.

Jay Stock

Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Crew workers Varnice Allen and James Gant

Intermediate clerks Brenda Collins and LeAnn Wollard

Promoted

Intermediate highway designer Carl Bradley

Transportation project designers Brad Brunk and Ben McCabe

Intermediate crew worker Robert Foster

Intermediate construction inspector Nick Pino

Senior materials technician Rex Stout

Retired

Intermediate crew worker Gordan Lee

Construction inspector Drennan Tolle

Employee Advisory Council

"The department recognizes one of the most integral components of our workforce is to respect and appreciate the values, ideas, cultures, and backgrounds of others.

The EAC has been established to foster and enhance a positive and supportive work environment among the department employees by assisting management with cultural diversity, policy review, and communication issues."

(Quoted from the EAC webpage)

The EAC is the new Employee Advisory Council set up as a mediation tool for all MoDOT employees to use in improving communication and work relations.

The MoDOT EAC meets monthly to discuss statewide employee concerns and determine possible solutions. District EAC representatives share that information with management during monthly team meetings and present District employee concerns and offer recommendations.

Employee concerns are brought to the attention of EAC representatives both verbally and in writing. Employee Concern Forms are available now on the MoDOT Intranet at <http://wwwwi.intranet/eac/> with hard copy forms being provided at each field location in the near future. The EAC respects your ideas and offers anonymity to all who wish to remain so.

D4 EAC members sit in on management meetings at various levels throughout the District to explain EAC goals and accomplishments and to receive feedback, which is then shared with employees.

D4 management looks forward to cultivating more cohesive relationships between employees through the EAC. Please visit the EAC Intranet webpage or feel free to contact any of your District representatives to learn more or to voice your own concerns.

Your D4 Representatives are:

Michelle Clevenger
(816) 622-0516

Marc Meador
(816) 622-0055
(816) 797-0054 (cell)

Sonya Henson
(816) 889-3380

Smoother Trips...

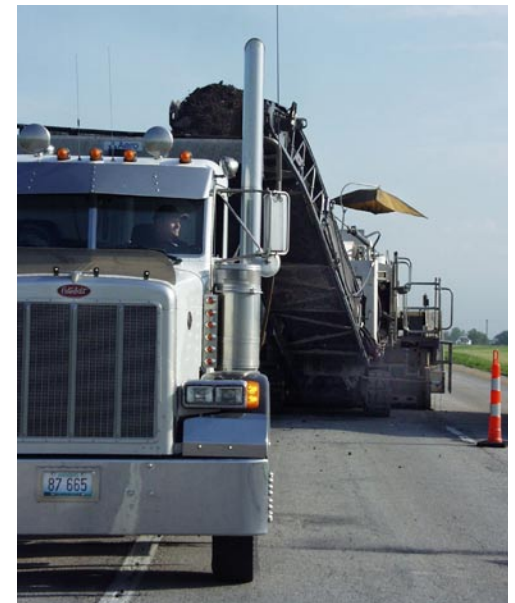
continued from Page 1

The \$8.3 million Johnson County improvements were the first Amendment 3 project in the west-central Missouri district. By late July, Bross and Hilty had moved their equipment and operations to south Cass County, where they tackled a similar job on Route 71 from Route 7 south into Bates County.

Other Smooth Roads Initiative projects under way this summer in District 4 include:

- Milling and resurfacing I-35 in Clay County
- Diamond grinding on Routes 152 and 169 in Clay County
- Diamond grinding, milling and resurfacing Route 7 in Jackson County
- Milling and resurfacing Interstate 70 in Jackson County
- Milling and resurfacing or diamond grinding and fog sealing shoulders on segments of Route 291 in Jackson County
- Diamond grinding, some asphalt resurfacing and fog-sealing shoulders on Route 7 in Cass County
- Milling and resurfacing or diamond grinding and fog sealing shoulders on segments of Interstate 29, Interstate 635 and Route 45 in Platte County

Mill tailings come off a conveyor into a waiting tandem dump on southbound Route 71.



Chester Bross workers rake and shovel asphalt at the transition near the Tennessee Creek bridge on southbound Route 71 south of Harrisonville.

econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0050

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Maintenance Pat Rath, 0420

Materials Shana Blaylock, 6525

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

Editor Jennifer Benefield, 6328

Smooth Roads Initiative

490 centerline miles of the Kansas City Area's busiest roadways in good condition by Dec. 2007

Progress to Date



Smoother, Safer, Sooner
Amendment 3

Tons

1,184,276 _____
986,897 _____
789,518 _____
592,139 _____
384,760 _____
197,381 _____

136,971
tons

Tons of asphalt

Miles

490 _____
408 _____
326 _____
244 _____
162 _____
80 _____

2 miles

Striping

Square Yards

30,000 _____
25,000 _____
20,000 _____
15,000 _____
10,000 _____
5,000 _____

25,351
sq. yds

Pavement repair

Miles

490 _____
408 _____
326 _____
244 _____
162 _____
80 _____

2 miles

Reflectors

Square Yards

329,602 _____
274,668 _____
219,734 _____
164,800 _____
109,866 _____
54,932 _____

0 sq. yds

Ultrathin-bonded wearing surface

Square Feet

60,000 _____
50,000 _____
40,000 _____
30,000 _____
20,000 _____
10,000 _____

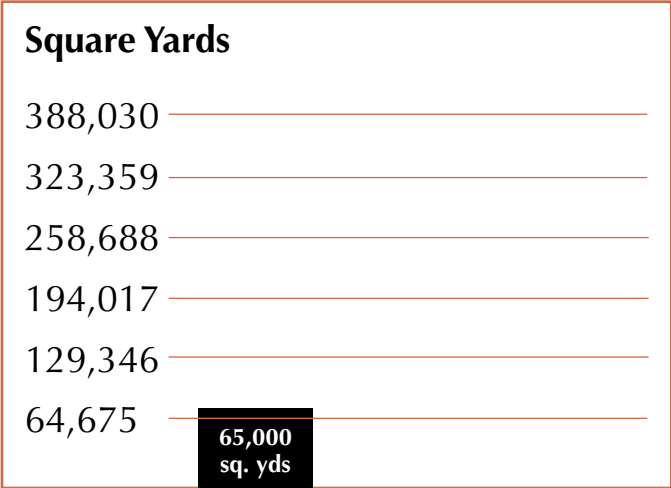
11,492
sq. ft.

Signs

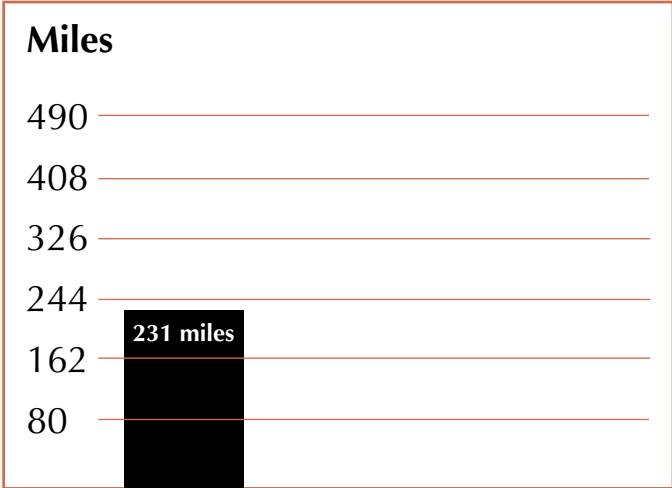
Smooth Roads Initiative

490 centerline miles of the Kansas City Area’s busiest roadways in good condition by Dec. 2007

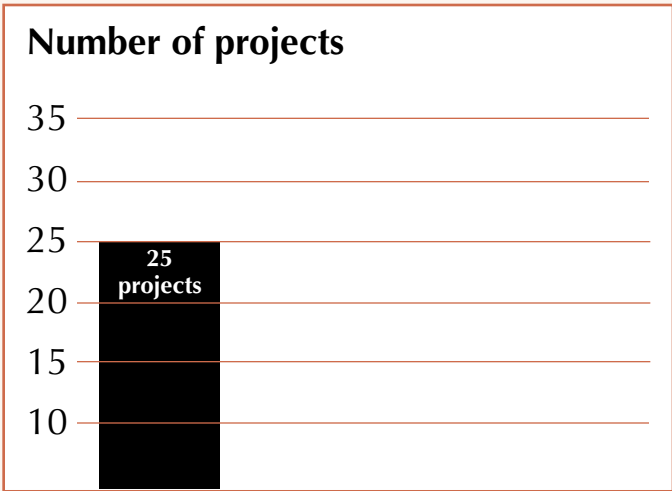
Progress to Date



Diamond grinding



Clear zones cleared



Projects designed